

ISAAC N. WILLHITE.

APRIL 11, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. McCUMBER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 2687.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2687) granting an increase of pension to Isaac N. Willhite, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives, hereto appended, is adopted and the passage of the bill is recommended.

The House report is as follows:

Isaac N. Willhite, now 62 years of age, served as corporal in Company E, Fifty-sixth Illinois Infantry, from November 20, 1861, to April 27, 1865, when honorably discharged.

He is one of the survivors of the steamer *General Lyon*, which conveyed the original members of this regiment on their way home to be mustered out and was burned off Cape Hatteras March 31, 1865, resulting in the loss of 280 members of the regiment and the saving of a few after many hours of exposure in the water, some being in the water fully five or six hours when rescued by the *Sedgwick*.

The beneficiary is now pensioned under the general law at \$17 per month for disease of bowels and rectum, and rheumatism.

This last rating was allowed in November, 1903, commencing August 5, 1903, and was based upon a certificate of medical examination made by the Harrisburg, Ill., board of surgeons on August 5, 1903, which rated him \$14 for disease of bowels, \$8 for disease of rectum, \$12 for rheumatism, and \$12 for disease of heart.

The statement of Gen. Green B. Raum, who was in command of the regiment, filed with your committee, shows that the beneficiary was a first-class soldier; that he was on the ill-fated steamer *General Lyon*, and that he, with four others, after buffet-ing the storm for hours, was rescued by a passing vessel; that he is now a wreck; that the last medical examination in his case showed that the liver and spleen were swollen, the abdomen enlarged and tender; that he has obstinate constipation, the rectum inflamed and ulcerated; that he suffers from rheumatism, with tenderness of joints and limitation of motion, also with palpitation of the heart; and that he is now well advanced in years, and that Congress will make no mistake in granting him a pension of \$30 per month.

The testimony of Doctor Andrews, also filed with your committee, shows that the beneficiary is unable to perform manual labor by reason of rheumatism, heart trouble, disease of rectum, and piles; that he is a very poor man, etc.

An increase of this soldier's pension from \$17 to \$24 per month is eminently just and proper in view of the recommendation made by the board of surgeons in August, 1903.

The passage of the bill is therefore recommended.